

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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O R 101037Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8440

USINFO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS SOFIA 1381

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OGEN, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

FOR IOP/M

REF: BUCHAREST 3406; STATE 174699; MOSCOW 2199, 12238;

PRAGUE 1912

1. BULGARIAN MEDIA HAVE REPORTED EVENTS IN WASHINGTON FULLY DURING THE WEEK, BUT, IN OUR VIEW, WITH NO SPECIAL EMPHASIS THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO PREPARE BULGARIAN PUBLIC FOR POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL UESIGNATION.

2. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED DECISION TO RESIGN TOO LATE FOR MORNING PRESS AUGUST 9 BUT RADIO CARRIED REPORT IN MORNING NEWSCASTS. BTV COVERAGE AUGUST 9 CONSISTED OF RETELECAST OF SOVIET TV COVERAGE IN REGULAR FRIDAY PROGRAM DEVOTED TO REBROADCAST UNCLASSIFIED

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OF MOSCOW TELEVISION.

3. AUGUST 9 AFTERNOONERS REPORTED PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.

4. ALL MORNINGERS AUGUST 10 REPORTED RESIGNATION AND PRESIDENT FORD'S SWEARING IN. ALL PAPERS REPORTED NIXON'S RESIGNATION SPEECH AND FORD'S RESPONSE. BTA ITEM CARRIED BY ALL PAPERS ALSO REPORTS PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH AFTER TAKING OATH.

5. RABOTNICHESKO DELO, TRUD AND ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME CARRY PROFILES OF NEW PRESIDENT EACH SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT BUT ALL POSITIVE AND INCLUDING BIO INFO, BACKGROUND ON HIS POLITICAL CAREER AND CHARACTERIZATIONS OF FORD AS "HONEST", "HARD WORKING" AND "MOST IMPORTANT IN THESE DAYS OF POLITICAL SCANDAL IN THE USA, VERY HONEST".

6. COVERAGE NOTES MR. FORD'S FREQUENT REFERENCES IN REMARKS SURROUNDING TRANSITION TO SUCCESS OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S POLICIES AND HIS DECISION TO RETAIN KISSINGER AS SECRETARY OF STATE. ALL THREE END ON POSITIVE NOTE EXPECTING PRESIDENT FORD TO CONTINUE POLICY OF IMPROVING EAST-WEST, AND PARTICULARLY U.S. - SOVIET, RELATIONS.

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Message Attributes

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